



knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

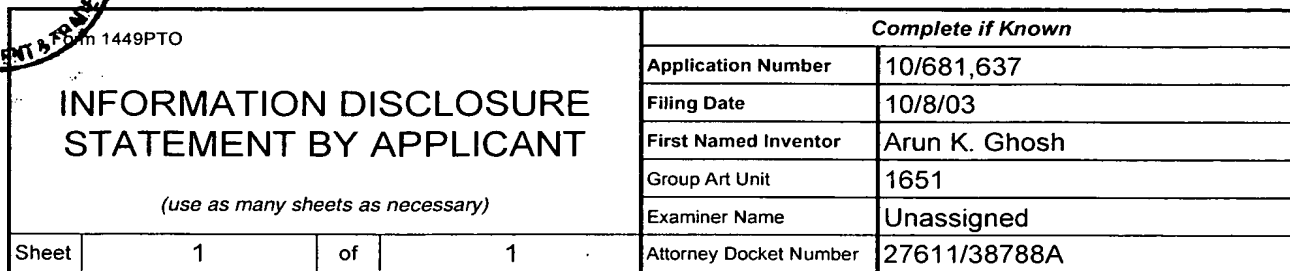
**MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP**

By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Napoli", is written over a horizontal line.

James J. Napoli  
(Registration No. 32,361)  
Attorneys for Applicants  
6300 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 474-6300

Chicago, Illinois  
February 9, 2004



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.